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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-05 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4249
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 10961

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT ID
SUBJECT: HARIMAN SIREGAR TRIAL - 11TH - 17TH SESSIONS

REF: JAKARTA 10610

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: SIREGAR TRIAL FOR TREASON AND SUBVERSION HAS ENTERED NEW PHASE AS WITNESSES FROM RIVAL UI STUDENT FACTIONBELEIVED TO BE SUPPORTED BY ALI MURTOPO HAVE BEGUN TO TESTIFY THAT DEFENDANT WAS BEHIND JANUARY RIOTS AND OPPOSED SUHARTO LEADRSHIP. USE OF THESE MURTOPO-CONNECTED WITNESSES FURTHER UNDER-MINING CREDIBILITY OF GOVENMENT'S CASE, WHICH THUS FAR HAS NOT PRODUCED HARD EVIDENCE OF TEASON OR SUBVERSION. ONE IRONIC SIDE EFFECT OF TRIAL THUS FAR HAS BEEN TO REPLAY ON FRONT PAGES OF PRESS STUDENT GRIEVANCES AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND SUMITRO-MURTOPO RIFT. BOTH SUBJECTS, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM NORMAL PUBLIC DISCOURSE SINCE POST-JANUARY CRACKDOWN ON PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TESTIMONY AUGUST 27-31, UI STUDENT COUNCILMEMBERS AND SIREGAR SUPPORTERS GURMILANG KARTASASMITA (SON OF RETIRED GENERAL AND EX-LEMBGA INDONESIA AMERIKA CHAIRMAN
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DIDI KARTASASMITA) AND JUDIL HERRY RUSTAM MADE FOLLOWING

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POINTS.

3. OCTOBER 24 STUDENT PETITION (CITED BY PROSECUTORS AS INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE) WAS STUDENT "OUTLET" FOR CONCERN OVER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND NEED FOR REFORM.

4. SIREGAR CALLED FOR "TOTAL ACTION" BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS THROUGHOUT INDONESIA AND "ROLL CALL OF RESOLVE" IN MASS MEETING AS MONAS SQUARE IF DEMANDS IN PETITION NOT MET. (SIREGAR HIMSELF CHALLENGED THIS INTERPRETATION.)

5. BUT ROLL CALL MEETING WAS CANCELLED BY SIREGAR AND COUNCIL ON JANUARY 14, AFTER GENERAL PANGGABEAN WARNED STUDENTS ABOUT "TREASON," BECUASE STUDENTS WISHED TO AVOID SUCH CHARGES; UI STUDENTS DID NOT TAKE PART IN JANUARY 15-16 RIOTS OR AIM TO UNDERMINE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY; SIREGAR ORDERED STUDENTS TO AVOID INFLAMMATORY ACTIONS; AT REQUEST OF KOPKAMTIB HE ARRANGED QUIET BURIAL OF STUDENT BYSTANDER ACCIDENTALLY KILLED IN RIOTS; STUDENT COUNCIL WITHDREW ABUSIVE POSTERS ATTACKING ASPRI'S AND KOPKAMTIB; AND STUDENTS REGARDED ALL ON PRESIDENT JANAURY 11 AS "CHILDREN CALLING ON THEIR FATHER."

6. SIREGAR WARNED STUDENTS NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CONFLICT BETWEEN SMITRO AND ALI MURTOPO AND DID NOT DISCUSS POSSIBILITY THAT SUMITRO MIGHT REPLACE SUHARTO.

7. UI AND OTHER STUDENTS ORGANIZED AIRPORT RECEPTION AND PETITION FOR PRIME MINISTER TANAKA JANUARY 14; BUT STUDENTS THOUGHT PLAN TO PRESENT PETITION TO TANAKA WAS AUTHORIZED ON BASIS OF EARLIER INVITATION FROM STATE SECRE-TARY SUDHARMONO TO MEET WITH AND PETITION TANAKA.

8. WITNESS JUDIL HERRY RUSTAM, WHO WAS CARETAKER CHAIRMAN OF UI COUNCIL AFTER SIREGAR'S DETENTION AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED HIMSELF, ADMITTED HE HEARD DEROGATORY STATEMENT BY SOMEONE ABOUT SUHARTO FAMILY ("BAPAK PLATS GOLF; IBU MOONLIGHTS") DURING STUDENTS' VISIT TO STATE SECRTARIAT DECEMBER 28 TO REQUEST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT.

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9. SIREGAR TESTIFIED AUGUST 30 THAT ATTACK ON SOCIAL DISCREPANCIES IN OCTOBER 24 PETITION WAS JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF SUBSEQUENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY SUHARTO THAT SUCH DISCREPANCIES EXISTED WHEN HE ISSUED ""SIMPLE LIFE" REFORM REGULATIONS AFTER RIOTS.

10. TRIAL TOOK NEW TURN IN AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3 SESSIONS WITH APPEARANCES OF ANTI-SIREGAR STUDENT WITNESSES WHO

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WERE MEMBERS OF TEN-MAN RIVAL FACTION OF UI COUNCIL.
GROUP ISSUED "NO CONFIDENCE" STATEMENT AGAINST SIREGAR
DECEMBER 28 AND SIREGAR SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED THEM.

11. WITNESS POSDAM HUTASOIT, A MEMBER OF RIVAL FACTION,
TESTIFIED AUGUST 31 THAT NO CONFIDENCE MOTION WAS BASED
ON "EXTERNAL" ACTIVITIES OF SIREGAR THAT EXCEEDED HIS
AUTHORITY AS CHAIRMAN AND ENDANGERED TENSE SIUTATION.
UNDER QUESTIONING, HUTASOIT SAID DECISION FORNO CONFIDENCE
MOTION WAS MADE AT MEETING IN HOME OF LT. COL. UTOMO, AN
ADJUTANT OF ALI MURTOPO AND CHAIRMAN OF KNPI (GOKLAR YOUTH
FRONT CREATED AND CONTROLLED BY ALI MURTOPO). (NOTE:
DEFENSE LAWYERS, WHO AVE OTHERWISE BEEN QUITE BOLD, DID
NOT PURSUE MURTOPO CONNECTION ANY FURTHER.)

12. LEONARD TOMASOS, ANOTHER MEMBER OF ANTI-SIREGAR RUMP
GROUP, TESTIFIED SEPTEMBER 2 THATHE THOUGHT SIREGAR WAS
"BRAIN" BEHIND JANUARY RIOTS BECUASE AFTER RIOTS HE OBSERVED
BACAK (PEDICAB) DIRVERS ARRVING AT UI CAMPUS SAYING THEY
HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY SIREGAR. ANOTHER RIVAL GROUP WITNESS,
DJAROT SANTOSO, TESTIFIED SEPTEMBER 3 THAT SIREGAR WAS
BEHIND RIOTS BECUASE OF INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES HE MADE IN
DECMBER AND JANUARY. DJAROT SAID ONE SIREGAR SPEECH
ATTACKING GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY WAS BASED ON
TEACHINGS OF DORODJATUN KUNTJOROJAKTI AND PROF. SARBINI,
UI ECONOMICS PROFESSORS WHO "EXPLOITED" STUDENT UNREST.
(NOTE: BOTH DORODJATUN KUNTJOROJAKTI AND SARBINI, WHO IS
FATHER-IN-LAW OF SIREGAR, ARE AMONG JANUARY 15 DETAINEES
STILL BEING HELD.)

13. SARWOKO, A THIRD WITNESS FROM RIVAL FACTION, TESTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 3 THAT SIREGAR HAD RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT
SUHARTO'S LEADERSHIP. HE ALSO SAID THAT BEFORE RIFT IN
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UI COUNCIL, HE AND SIREGAR WERE TOLD BY FORMER JOURNALIST
ROSIHAN ANWAR THAT THERE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN SUMITRO AND
MURTOPO AND THAT OTHER "INDEPENDENT GENERALS" WERE DISSAT-
ISFIED WITH PREVIALING CONDITIONS.
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